

SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR THE COMMITTEE

10 December 1957

EXHIBITION NO. 2215: dated 14 March 1957

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SS-13, Geographical
DIR, 00/1

A. Summary of Suggestion

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The USSR has donated several thousand scientific and technical books to the University of [REDACTED] Library. Ergo, it is suggested that a copy of the "gift inventory" be obtained and that this list be checked in Washington to determine if the consignment includes significant works not already in the US. If the list calls attention to items worth procuring, it should not be too difficult to obtain access to the books long enough to photograph them. Even if no new Soviet technical works come to hand as a result of the suggested action, it is believed that the inventory list will reveal points of intelligence interest re Soviet plans for [REDACTED]

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B. Summary of Evaluations

On 25 March 1957 the CIA Librarian stated:

"This information provided by the requestor is of interest to the CIA Library. It is the sort of information that could very well have come as a requirement requesting information.

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If the suggester wishes further information on his suggestion (request for information) it is recommended he inquire after 1 July 1957, since the Chief of the Near East Section is not due back until after this date.

I do not believe this suggestion makes any added contribution. It is in fact, a request for information."

On 25 March 1957 the CIA Librarian stated:

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"This suggestion dealt with the donation of USSR books

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for information and that the Chief of the Near East Section, Library of Congress, on tour in the area will be asked to look into this matter.

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It is therefore suggested that this case be closed out as a result of this report. The suggestor should be given minimal acknowledgement for calling this announcement to our attention. The extensive efforts the CIA Library and other U.S. Government agencies are undertaking to have as complete coverage of USSR publications are outside the purview of this paper: they are voluminous and exhaustive. It is our considered opinion that the [REDACTED] has received very few, if any, USSR publications not available to us through other, more efficient channels.

The suggestor should be told further that if he wishes to take the time, he should consult with the Chief of the Acquisitions Branch, CIA Library, (Ext. 548) from whom he could receive a thorough, informative briefing on the entire USSR publication collection program.

C. Suggestion Awards Staff Notes

The Staff's recommendation of Non-Adoption was concurred in by committee members [REDACTED] However, Mr. [REDACTED]

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"This suggestion was of interest to the CIA Library and was responsible for certain action. Moreover, in paragraph 3 of his memo dated 17 Sept. 1957, the CIA Librarian states, 'The suggestor should be given minimal acknowledgement for calling this announcement to our attention.' In view of this, I believe the suggestor should be given a small award."

On 12 December 1957, an inquiry to the Agency Librarian brought the reply that he felt the suggested check of books in [REDACTED] was routine and did not contribute or change established procedures or plans. He said such suggestions occur frequently from all levels of the Agency and the Library is always grateful for the interest as well as the proposal, whether fruitful or not. He explained that his remarks in paragraph 3 meant to express or acknowledge the appreciation of his office and to encourage continued interest and cooperation.

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This explanation was relayed to [REDACTED] who maintained that he still believed the suggester is entitled to an award and that the Committee should vote on it. He believes that the suggestion prompted the library to take action.

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D. Line of Duty Status

Not in line-of-duty. (Geographer)

E. Recommendation of Executive Secretary

Next Action to be decided by Committee.

F. Decision of Committee

_____ Adopted _____ Award ☒ Letter of Appreciation

_____ Not Adopted

Commendation Letter
already done
move to second

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